

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01462 042235Z

11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /126 W

----- 000575

R 042030Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4716

INFO USERDA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, AR

SUBJ: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ARGENTINE ENRGY PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 301432 (NOTAL); B) B.A. 304 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY POLICY PRIMARILY CENTERED IN SECRETARY OF ENERGY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. NO CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY R&D, BUT CNEA HAS NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY AND SCIENCE&TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY SHOWING KEEN INTEREST IN THIS FIELD. GOA WISHES TO MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE IN PETROLEUM AND TO MAINTAIN NUCLEAR FUEL INDEPENDENCE. CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY HINDERING IMPLEMENTATION OF LONG RANGE ENERGY R&D PLANS. ARGENTINE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY R&D

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01462 042235Z

AGREEMENTS ARE PRIMARILY IN NUCLEAR FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS COMPLETION OF EMBASSY REPLY TO REFTEL A)
AS PROMISED IN INTERIM REPLY (REFTEL B). NUMBERING IS PER
REFTEL A.

I. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. ARGENTINE CONGRESS HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PASSING LEGISLATION AFFECTING GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN ENERGY R&D AND ANNUAL BUDGETS. EXECUTIVE BRANCH PROPOSES PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS AND CARRIES OUT APPROVED PROGRAMS. UNDER CULTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY, SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXERCISES PRINCIPAL R&D RESPONSIBILITY; REPORTING TO HIM ARE THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CONICET) WHICH ADMINISTERS NUMEROUS BASIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND THE NATIONAL GEOHELIOPHYSICAL COMMISSION (CNEGH) WHICH HAS MAJOR SOLAR ENERGY INTEREST. UNDER ECONOMY MINISTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR ENERGY IS PRICIPAL GOA ENERGY OFFICIAL AND HAS RESPONSIBILITY OVER STATE-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES (E.G. AGUA Y ENERGIA); PETROLEUM COMPANY - YPF; COAL COMPANY - YCF; AND GAS COMPANY - GAS DEL ESTADO. ALSO UNDER ECONOMY MINISTRY, INDISTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE-INTI- IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT LABORATORIES WITH SOME ENERGY-RELATED R&D. NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA) REPORTS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND HAS RATHER COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUILDING, OPERATING, AND LICENSING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. ENERGY SECRETARY AND INTI DIRECTOR RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT CREATING NEW CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN ENRGY TECHNOLOGY (CITERG), WHICH WILL FUNCTION AS ONE OF INTI'S RESEARCH CENTERS. INTI ALSO HAS AGREEMENT WITH CNEGH FOR SOLAR HOME HOT WATER HEATING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

II. ENERGY POLICY AND ANALYSIS RESPONSIBILITY LIES PRIMARILY WITH SECRETARY OF ENERGY. EXCEPT FOR NUCLEAR, WHICH LIES WITH CNEA, AND PERHAPS SOLAR, WITH CNEGH, THERE IS NO CLEARLY DEFINED FOCAL POINT FOR ENERGY R&D RESPONSIBILITY, BUT SCIENCE AN TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY SEEMS INTERESTED IN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE.
ENERGY POLICY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01462 042235Z

I. ENERGY OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH TO ENERGY R&D
A. GOA HAS STATED WISH TO MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE IN PETROLEUM IN WHICH IT IS CURRENTLY AROUND 85PERCENT SELF-SUFFICIENT. ARG. NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN URANIUM. GOA WILLING ACCEPT NEED TO CONTINUE IMPORTING COAL AND GAS TO SOME DEGREE. EMPHASIS ON HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT ALSO DUE LARGELY TO DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND MINIMIZATION OF FOSIL FUEL NEEDS FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION. LATTER WILL

INVOLVE A DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE, HOWEVER, IN THAT PROJECTS ON BOARDER RIVERS BEING DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES).

B. SEE PARA (3) REFEL B.

C. ALL SIGNIFICANT ENERGY R&D IN COUNTRY CURRENTLY CONDUCTED IN GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES OR LABS OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED COMPANIES.

D. JOINT GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES IN ENERGY R&D-MINIMAL.

E. PRIVATE INDUSTRY'S ROLE-MINIMAL

F. BASIC LEGISLATION-WE ARE ONLY AWARE OF LEGISLATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD GIVING CNEA BASIC R&D RESPONSIBILITY. CNEA PROPOSED NEW PLAN OVER A YEAR AGO, BUT THIS STILL LECKS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

II. ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES.

A. STATUS AND OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE: PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLIMATE IN COUNTRY ARE SLOWING CNEA'S PLANNED PROGRAM TO CONSTRUCT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR FUEL CYCLE. BRIGHTEST HOPE FOR PUSH IN ENERGY R&D IS VIA S&T SECRETARIAT, WHERE PROPOSED 1975/76 "IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN" INCLUDES, IN THIS SECTOR, DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR, OCEANIC (TIDAL), GEOTHERMAL, EOLIC, AND SOLAR ENERGY, AS WELL AS ENERGY TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE AND STUDY OF TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ENERGETIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS.

B. BUDGETS REMAIN PENDING WITH EXECUTIVE BRANSH DOING SAME TRIMMING FOR AUSTERITY AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTION YET TO COME.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BUENOS 01462 042235Z

FISCAL YEAR IS SAME AS CALENDAR YEAR.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

I. ARGENTINA IS MEMBER OF IAEA (CURRENTLY HOLDS CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS) AND OF OAS/IANEC.

II. IN NUCLEAR FILD, ARGENTINA HAS AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA (ACTIVE), U.S. (RELATIVELY INACTIVE), GERMANY (CURRENTLY INACTIVE), INDIA (INACTIVE), AND LIBYA (INACTIVE). IT HAS SOMETIMES PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER LATAM COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS OF ENERGY R&D.
HILL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, POLICIES, REPORTS, PETROLEUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS01462
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760084-0091
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadguf.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 301432
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ARGENTINE ENRGY PROGRAMS
TAGS: TECH, AR, CNEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006